Springs Together : **In 1998, Colorado Springs residents were threatened by what proved to be an unsuccessful attempt to challenge the Colorado Springs City Council's non-binding resolution expressing zero tolerance for hateful discrimination within the city and its government. To face the threat a group of residents formed Springs Together, an issue committee, to educate residents about fairness in public policy and the value of tolerance. Activities were planned to show support for diversity as critical element in our overall quality of life.**

Within weeks of forming supporters stepped up and pledged over $37,000 to help achieve these goals.

Today Springs Together is preparing for another back lash brought on by the Council's recent decision to include domestic partner benefits to city employees, a policy now sensibly embraced by the Colorado Springs Utilities and Memorial Hospital. This year Springs Together's goal is to bring a message to residents and to candidates running for office that:

- **Equal treatment of employees and fairness in government policy is good business.**
- **Equal treatment helps city government attract and retain the best work force.**
- **Major employers, looking to move to town, look at a city government's record on this issue before bringing jobs here.**
- **More controversy on this issue will damage Colorado Springs' reputation at a time we can ill afford it.**
- **This so called budget controversy represents only a tiny fraction - one fiftieth of one percent - of the city's budget. There are bigger quality of life issues to focus on such as protecting our water supplies, ensuring good education and solving our traffic problems.**

Our Research shows that :

- **Over 66% of Colorado Springs residents surveyed would either not make a voting decision based on the benefits issue or are in support of the council's decision.**
- **85% of Americans support equal opportunity for gay people in the workplace- Gallup poll 2001.**
- **While zero localities provided workplace protection in 1970, over 122 localities and 304 of the Fortune 500 companies have non-discrimination policies in support of equal treatment.**
- **The Colorado Springs Domestic Partner Benefits application process is detailed and thorough.**
- **The University of Colorado System found that the cost of providing benefits to domestic partners was insignificant, when less than ½ of 1% of the total pool of employees requested this support.**
- **A government report released by the General Accounting office found that in the states that have sexual orientation anti-bias laws, there was "no indication that these laws have generated a significant amount of litigation."**